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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01482 020755Z

17/11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /063 W

----- 006356

R 301135Z JAN 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3703

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1482

.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MORE ACCLAMATIONS CHARACTERIZE MRS. GANDHI'S INCREASINGLY
PERSONALIST REGIME

SUMMARY: DURING JANUARY 18-24 CONGRESS PARTY LEADERS AND PUBLICLY
CONTROLLED MEDIA OUTLETS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT FANFARE MRS.
GANDHI'S LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 10 YEARS AS PRIME
MINISTER. THE ACCLAMATIONS SPILLED OVER INTO THE JANUARY 26
REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS, PROVIDING A HEAVY ACCENT TO THE
INCREASINGLY PERSONALIST REGIME SHE IS BUILDING. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGRESS AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS COMPETED WITH EACH OTHER IN
ACCLAIMING MRS. GANDHI'S VIRTUES DURING A SIX-DAY (AN. 18-24)
CELEBRATION OF HER JUST-COMPLETED DECADE IN POWER. THE CELEBRA-
TIONS WERE HELD IN DELHI AND CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY. THEY
INCLUDED PUBLIC MEETINGS, SYMPOSIUMS, CULTURAL AND
LITERARY FUNCTIONS, DANCES AND POETRY REAINGS. THE WALLS ON
BUILDINGS AND ALONG STREETS IN DELHI WERE LITTERED WITH PHOTO-
GRAPHS OF MRS. GANDHI. ALL-INDIA RADIO AND TELEVISION CARRIED
SPECIAL PROGRAMS OF HER LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE CONGRESS
PARTY PUT OUT A ONE-INCH THICK SUPPLEMENT ENTITLED "THE INDIRA
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GANDHI DECADE 1966-1976" WHICH INCLUDED ADULATORY ARTICLES

WRITTEN BY SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CABINET, CHIEF MINISTERS
AND LEADING CONGRESS POLITICIANS.

2. SENIOR CONGRESS LEADERS SET THE PACE. AS AT THE CANDIGARH
AICC SESSION, CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT BAROOAH COMPARED MRS.
GANDHI TO LEADERS OF THE PAST SUCH AS MAHATMA GANDHI AND NEHRU
AND PROCLAIMED THAT UNDER HER LEADERSHIP "INDIA TODAY STANDS ON
THE THRESHHOLD OF A NEW ERA POSED TO USHER IN A PROCESS OF
SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION." AGRICULTURE MINISTER RAM ACCLAIMED HER
FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY DEFIED SOLUTION.
FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN NOTED HER "AMAZINGLY FIRM AND FAR-SEE-
ING LEADERSHIP" AND WISHED HER "MANY MORE YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS
AT THE HELM OF THE NATION'S AFFAIRS." W. BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
RAY TOLD A CROWD IN CALCUTTA THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS MRS. GANDHI'S
LEADERSHIP FOR ANOTHER TWENTY YEARS AND THAT INDIA WOULD HAVE
"DISINTEGRATED" WITHOUT HER.

3. COMMENT: THE ACCLAMATIONS OF MRS. GANDHI'S DECADE IN POWER
SPILLED OVER INTO THE JANUARY 26 REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS PRO-
VIDING HEAVY ACCENT TO THE INCREASINGLY PERSONALIST REGIME SHE IS
BUILDING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TENURE OF OFFICE, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE01482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-0635
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976015/aaaaadmz.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE ACCLAMATIONS CHARACTERIZE MRS. GANDHI'S INCREASINGLY PERSONALIST REGIME
TAGS: PINT, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006